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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography lists computer software and other media materials that support acquisition of basic and literacy skills and familiarize adult learners with new technologies. It cites products chosen by five St. Paul (Minnesota) area United Way agencies for the Empowering Learners Project. Listings of computer software include courseware, authoring aids, and other software in math, English language skills, health, typing, word processing, graphics, vocabulary development, accent reduction, spelling, and pronunciation. Shorter video and cassette tape listings cover similar topics. Some but not all of the materials for English language skills are designed for instruction in English as a Second Language. Citations include the item's title, vendor, price, required hardware, a brief description, comments, and which of the participating agencies purchased the materials. A list of vendors and their addresses is also included. (Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse on Literacy Education) (MSE)

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Empowering Learners Project Bibliography

Empowering Learners Project
1992

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FL 800483

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EMPOWERING LEARNERS
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Empowering Learners Project
United Way of the St. Paul Area
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INTRODUCTION

As technology increasingly becomes a part of everyday life, it is important that adults in ESL and literacy programs also have opportunities to use it. One of the goals of the Empowering Learners Project, therefore, was to identify computer software as well as other media materials that would both support the acquisition of basic skills and familiarize adult learners with new technologies. This bibliography is a listing of the products chosen by the agencies in the Empowering Learners Project for their students. Inclusion of materials does not necessarily constitute a recommendation and vendors should be contacted directly for current product information.

The Empowering Learners Project is a collaboration of five St. Paul United Way agencies, the Technology for Literacy Center, and the United Way of the St. Paul Area. The five agencies are:

CLUES (Chicanos Latinos Unidos en Servicios) - a multi-service agency that primarily serves Hispanics

Guadalupe Area Project - an alternative high school with an adult ESL program

International Institute of Minnesota - an agency that provides services related to international education as well as ESL instruction to immigrants

Labor Resource and Studies Center - an agency that serves dislocated workers

Lao Family Community of Minnesota - a multi-service agency that primarily serves Laotian and Hmong refugees.

The Technology for Literacy Center is a program of the Community Education Department, St. Paul Public Schools. We wish to give special thanks to the UPS Foundation and the United Way of America for funding this project.

SOFTWARE

Algebra Made Painless

Vendor: Educational Activities

Price: $295 complete set

Hardware: Apple II , Tandy, or IBM

Description: Lots of practice with basic algebra. Individual disks can be purchased for particular skills, e.g., signed numbers.

Comments: Some humor makes learning enjoyable on these disks. Presentation of information is clear.

Purchased by: Labor Resource Center

Basic English Composition

Vendor: Queue

Price: prices vary

Hardware: IBM Compatible, Apple II

Description: This software helps learners to identify complete and incomplete sentences as well as run-ons and fragments. It is appropriate for ABE Levels 3 - 6.

Comments: The program was selected because it reinforces the use of complete sentences.

Purchased by: Labor Resource Center

Basic Math Competency Skill Builder

Vendor: Educational Activities

Price: $59.95 Diskette, back-up, management, documentation OR
$349 Complete set of eight

Hardware: IBM Compatible, Apple, TRS80, Tandy, Commodore

Description: Covers math--whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, graphs as a basic math review. There is some tutorial with drill and practice. It is appropriate for students who have problems remembering math concepts and processes and for those who are on a basic level of understanding in math.

Comments: This program was selected because it is very comprehensive and is not too childish. (The decimals section is not as good as the other areas of the program).
Purchased by: Labor Resource Center

Dr. Know It All's Inner Body Works, Jr. Version
Vendor: Tom Snyder Productions
Price: $119.95
$299.95 software & lab pack
$349.95 network version
Hardware: Apple IIGS, MAC, IBM
Description: Teaches the human body. Presents topics such as smoking, alcohol use, etc.
Comments: This program supplements the classroom curriculum on the human body. It gives more depth than time permits in the classroom. Students who have disabilities, illnesses are especially interested in this program. It uses lots of illustrations. The booklets that come with the program are very good. It is appropriate for ESL Level 3 and especially in a group setting.
Purchased by: GAP

ESL Picture Grammar
Vendor: Gessler Educational Software
Price: $41.95
Hardware: Apple II
Description: Gives ESL learners practice in word recognition and sentence creation. Uses lots of grammar and some graphics as part of sentence structure. Is appropriate for the lowest ESL Level 1.
Comments: It was selected because the sentences are very short. The program was tailored for ESL. The price is right.
Purchased by: GAP

English Grammar Computerized I

Vendor: Lingo Fun

Price: $49.95 includes backup; $59.95 teacher's edition and $150 network

Hardware: IBM compatible, Apple II, MAC

Description: Deals with 18 review and practice lessons on grammar. Is appropriate for ESL Levels 3 and 4.

Comments: Chosen because students previewed it and found it to be a favorable program with which to study grammar.

Purchased by: CLUES

Essential Idioms in English

Vendor: Prentice Hall Regents

Price: $175 for three disks and one handbook

Hardware: Apple II

Description: Provides practice with 500 common idioms. The program reinforces classroom instruction. Is appropriate for ESL Level 3.

Comments: Program was chosen because idioms are difficult to teach. It gives tutors ideas of idioms to cover.

Purchased by: GAP

Foundations of Bilingual Reading Comprehension - Levels 1 & 2

Vendor: Educational Publishing Concepts

Hardware: Apple II

Description: Bilingual program that introduces stories in both English and in Spanish. It is appropriate for those who are literate in their own language.

Comments: Chosen because the students like the program. The stories are short and there are lots of graphics illustrating the stories. A nice feature is the ability to backtrack in the story. The stories are somewhat juvenile.

Purchased by: GAP

Geometry Alive

Vendor: Educational Activities

Price: $159 for complete set

Hardware: Apple II, IBM, & Tandy

Description: Three-disk set on basic geometry concepts (area, circles, etc.).

Comments: Easy to use. Clearly presented.

Purchased by: Labor Resource Center

Homonyms

Vendor: Hartley

Price: $39.95 Apple version

$49.95 MS-DOS version

Hardware: IBM compatible, Apple II

Description: Twenty lessons help with simple, first-level homonyms and progress to more difficult discriminations. Is appropriate for lower level adult ABE readers, 3-6.

Comments: Chosen for its editing feature. It assists with spelling. It addresses common homonym problems.

Purchased by: Labor Resource Center

Hypercard 2.1 Development Kit

Vendor: MacWarehouse (+ other vendors)

Price: $139

Hardware: Mac

Description: Unlike the abbreviated version of Hypercard that comes with a new Macintosh, this kit has a full-scale version of Hypercard with additional stacks and tools for development.

Purchased by: Lao Family Community

Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing

Vendor: Software Toolworks Inc. (local dealers often have it)

Price: $49

Hardware: MAC, IBM compatible

Description: Is appropriate with high ABE reading level (8+).

Comments: Chosen because it came highly recommended. Good instructionally.

Purchased by: LRC

Microsoft Works

Vendor: Microsoft Corporation (local dealers usually carry it)

Price: varies

Hardware: MAC, IBM compatible

Description: Contains a word processing program, database, and spreadsheet. An all-round good program for first users of word processing.

Comments: The word processing can be used with all students with assistance.

Purchased by: International Institute, Lao Family Community, CLUES, & LRC

New Print Shop

Vendor: Broderbund

Price: $59.95 to $69.95 depending upon hardware

Hardware: IBM compatible, MAC, Apple, Tandy

Description: Authoring program that is easy to use. Makes signs, cards, banners, calendars, certificates, etc. Uses fonts, borders and graphics. Is appropriate for students new to computers.

Comments: Selected because it is a nice introduction to computers. Students can use it for family, church, birthdays and other events. It is fun!

Purchased by: LRC

101 Misused Words

Vendor: The Learning Seed

Hardware: IBM Compatible

Description: Aids in the spelling of words such as quit/quite and went/want. Is appropriate for bad spellers and for those who have trouble remembering similar words. Good for lower level readers.

Comments: Program was selected because of its coverage of the most confusing words and commonly misspelled words. It reinforces the correct spelling/usage.

Purchased by: Labor Resource Center

READY Course

Vendor: Interactive Knowledge

Price: $495

Hardware: IBM compatible, MAC

Description: Reading comprehension program. Covers health, consumer issues, voting, renting, workplace situations, etc. Includes vocabulary development and comprehension.

Comments: Chosen because it is a challenging program. Critical thinking skills are needed. Students have to learn new strategies and have to work very hard on this program. Used at LRC for ABE students Level 4-8 and at CLUES for ESL Levels 3 & 4.

Purchased by: CLUES, Labor Resource Center

SELF : Spanish-to-English Learning Focus (Beginning Level)

Vendor: American Language Academy

Price: $164.95

Hardware: Apple

Description: Bilingual tutorial and practice on basic points in English grammar. Teaches vocabulary and sentence practice. Provides instruction and help in English or Spanish. Is appropriate for ESL Levels 2 and 3.

Comments: Chosen because it is bilingual. A nice feature is the help feature. When you hit help, it breaks down examples of verbs into English and Spanish.

Purchased by: GAP

Sentence Maker

Vendor: American Language Academy

Price: $49.95 ; $19.95 for backup, $39.95 for five student disks

Hardware: Apple

Description: Students practice constructing grammatically correct and meaningful sentences. Teachers author the program. Authoring feature was used to make lessons that correlated with Real Life English book(s).

Comments: Is appropriate for ESL Level 1. (Could be used with any level). Selected because students did much better on learning classroom lessons when they could get reinforcement in computer lab with this program. The editing feature is good.

Purchased by: GAP

Speakware/Accent Reduction Software

Vendor: Lingua Tec

Price: $295 Non-profit or $395 regular

Hardware: MAC

Description: Improves listening and pronunciation skills. Is a self-study program using 22 different English sounds. Is appropriate for all ESL levels.

Comments: Selected for the pronunciation factor and because it shows visual display of mouth positions. The digitized sound is good. The program is easy to use. It builds vocabulary and helps in accent reduction. This version is geared to Hispanic students and their needs.

Purchased by: CLUES

Spell It Plus with speech

Vendor: Davidson

Price: $59.95 2-program teacher pack MS-DOS

$149.95 2-program lab pack MS-DOS

$599.95 MS-Dos plus $19.95 data disk and $149.95 network version

Hardware: IBM compatible, Apple, MAC, Tandy and PC compatibles

Description: Improves spelling, writing and language skills by reinforcing correct spelling rules and patterns. Contains 1,000 commonly misspelled words. Uses games and has an editing feature to add words. Is appropriate for ABE Levels 3-6 and for students who are not good writers.

Comments: Chosen for its editing feature.

Purchased by: Labor Resource Center

Talk to Me

Vendor: Educational Activities

Price: $319 includes software, Ani-vox, I/O Board, microphone & headset

Hardware: IBM+Ani-vox (Works on Tandy too)

Description: Authoring program that allows user to make lessons and have students record their own voices. Learners see, hear and respond. Is appropriate for ESL Levels 1 and 2 and for those who need extended practice. Can be used to author bilingual lessons.

Comments: Selected for the good digitized sound and for the visuals. Lessons are short and easy to use. Supplements classroom work.May be too basic for higher level students.

Purchased by: CLUES

Quick Talk

Vendor: Educational Activities

Price: $69.95 for three lessons, 4 backups, documentation and masters
$299 for set of five lessons

Hardware: IBM + Ani-Vox board (works on Tandy too)

Description: Readymade lessons that encourage the student to see, hear and respond to such themes as the house and family, school and the supermarket.

Comments: It is appropriate for ESL Levels 1 and 2 and for those who need more practice.

Purchased by: CLUES

Talking Dictionary

Vendor: Highlighted Data

Price: $199.95

Hardware: CD-ROM, MAC

Description: CD ROM dictionary. Audio option allows student to pronouce any word. (Definition not pronounced).

Comments: Selected because it runs on CD and has the audio component. It uses diagrams also. Appropriate for ESL Levels 2 and up.

Purchased by: CLUES

Talking Tiles

Vendor: Bright Star Technology

Price: $49

Hardware: Mac

Description: Enjoyable program that demonstrate pronunciation of simple words, using animated image of person saying words.

Purchased by: Lao Family Community

Type
Vendor: Broderbund
Price: varies ($29-39)
Hardware: Mac, IBM, Apple II, Commodore
Description: Typing program
Purchased by: Lao Family Community

Word Attack Plus - English with speech
Vendor: Davidson
Price: $59.95 2-disks for disks (other options available)
Hardware: Apple, IBM, Tandy, PC compatibles
Description: Provides vocabulary practice. Teaches new words and definitions as students build their vocabulary. Is appropriate for ABE Level 3 and higher. Students need some independent reading skills. Also can be used with ESL learners.
Comments: Chosen for editing feature.
Purchased by: Labor Resource Center and GAP

Word Attack Plus - Spanish
Vendor: Davidson
Price: $59.95 2-disk teacher pack
Hardware: Apple II, IBM, Tandy, PC compatibles
Description: Vocabulary practice that is appropriate for ESL Level 3 or higher
Purchased by: GAP

Wordmatch: Spanish
Vendor: Queue
Price: $49.95
Hardware: Apple II
Description: Learners match English words with Spanish words. Units are thematic--animals, body, city, country, etc. Appropriate for ESL Level 1. (Other languages available.)
Comments: Chosen because there are very short vocabulary words in this program. It is fairly easy to use, once the student understands the game.
Purchased by: GAP

VIDEOS

Consonant Sounds and Letters - Student Video
Vendor: New Reader's Press
Price: $102 Set of two video tapes; $32 photo copy masters
Description: Teaches letter recognition, pronunciation, and some vocabulary
Comments: This videotape was selected because students can see visually how a word is pronounced. The audio is also important for ESL learners. It is appropriate for ESL levels 1-3.
Purchased by: CLUES and GAP

English 101/Ingles 101
Vendor: Agency for Instructional Technology
Price: $125 per video cassette, $2,195 for all 30 cassettes
Description: Thirty, 30-minute video programs in English as a Second Language for native speakers of Spanish. Each program is self-contained and can be used independently, in any order. Examples of videos: The Verb "To Be", Idiomatic Expressions, Prepositions I, Telling Time, etc. Teacher Guide, Student Workbook and Answer Key available.
Comments: Appropriate for high schoolers and adult native speakers of Spanish. Videotapes can be used individually or in groups. They are in English and Spanish.
Purchased by: CLUES

In English
Vendor: Video Language Products
Price: $750
Description: 80-100 hours of ESL instruction, including narrated scenes, vocabulary, dialogue, and pronunciation practice. Workbooks and teacher guide come with the packages.
Comments: Good material.
Donated to Lao Family Community by Video Language Products

Title: Newcomers to America
Vendor: Newcomers to America
Price: $52 each tape
Description: 18 videotapes on adjusting to American life, available in 15 languages. Teacher guide comes with each tape.
Comments: The topics are good, but translations are not provided for English-speaking teachers.
Purchased by: Lao Family Community

CASSETTE TAPES

English Pronunciation for Spanish Speakers - Vowels and Consonants
Vendor: Regents/Prentice Hall
Price: $11.50 Consonant Book and $32 for two consonant cassettes
$11.50 Vowel Book and $32 for two vowel cassettes
Description: These books/cassettes are designed to reduce foreign accents that hinder effective communication when speaking English. Illustrates correct mouth positions, matches Spanish key words with English equivalent words and more. Appropriate for ESL Levels 2 & 3 and Level 1 with tutor assistance.
Comments: Selected because it was created for the Spanish native speaker. It covers vowels and consonants and reinforces classroom instruction. The self-tests are a nice feature.
Purchased by: GAP

Kaleidoscope - A Collection of Stories
Vendor: New Reader's Press
Price: $14.50 for set of eight books or $2 per book and
$18.50 for set of four cassette tapes.
Description: Book with cassette tape. Read-Along short stories of the lives of adult characters. Stories have interesting plot twists. Available individually or in sets. Appropriate for ESL Levels 2 and 3.

Comments: Chosen because sentence structure is simple, yet understandable. Words are short and pictures accompany the stories.
Purchased by: GAP

Listening to Communicate in English - Intermediate Level
Vendor: Delta Systems Co., Inc.
Price: $39.95 includes four audio cassettes, one workbook, one answer key & one carrying case.
Description: Thirty lessons in conversation and survival skills, e.g. asking for help, extending an invitation, talking on a telephone, applying for a library card.
Comments: Selected because the intermediate level of instruction was needed, and the lessons are short. Survival skills are covered. It is appropriate for ESL Levels 2, 3 and possibly 1.
Purchased by: GAP

Pronunciation Pairs
Vendor: Cambridge University Press
Description: Cassettes and books that cover the use of vowels and consonants using lots of pictures. There are diagrams of mouth positions. Is appropriate for ESL Level 1.
Comments: Selected because it is appropriate for the low level ESL learner. Level 1 students are able to use this independently.
Purchased by: GAP

Real Life English cassette tapes for Levels 1 & 2
Vendor: Steck Vaughn Publishing
Price: $39.95 for five cassettes per each book.
Description: The cassette tapes correlate with lessons in the Real Life English series books and include topics such as shopping, food, home, employment, etc.
Comments: The books and cassettes are appropriate for entry level ESL learners. The tapes were selected because audio instruction is important to ESL learners and adult learners often want additional support materials.
Purchased by: GAP and CLUES

VENDORS

Agency for Instructional Technology
Box A
Bloomington, IN 47402-0120

American Language Academy
1401 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
800-346-3469

Bright Star Technology
1450-114th Ave. SE, suite 200
Bellevue, WA 98004

Broderbund
P.O. Box 12947
San Rafael, CA 94913-2947
800-521-6263

Cambridge University Press
40 West 20th St.
New York, NY 10011

Davidson & Associates
3135 Kashiwa Street
Torance, CA 90505
800-556-6141

Delta Systems
P.O. Box 987
Dundee, IL 60118-0987
800-323-8270

Educational Activities, Inc.
P.O. Box 392
Freeport, NY 11520
800-645-3739

Gessler Educational Software
900 Broadway
New York, NY 10003

Hartley Courseware, Inc.
123 Bridge Street
Box 419
Dimondale, MI 48821
800-247-1380

Highlighted Data
6628 Midhill Place
Falls Church, VA 2204301833

Interactive Knowledge
P.O. Box 560865
Charlotte, NC 28256
704-549-9646

The Learning Seed
330 Telser Rd.
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Lingo Fun, Inc.
P.O. Box 486
Westerville, OH 43081
614-882-8258

Linguatec, Inc.
111 W. evelyn Ave., Suite 306
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-9401
408-746-3901

MacWarehouse
P.O. Box 3013
1690 Oak Street
Lakewood, NY08701-3013
800-255-6227

New Readers Press
Attn: Fulfillment Dept.
Box 888
Syracuse, NY 13210

Newcomers to America
P.O. Box 339
Portland, OR 97207-0339

Queue
338 Commerce Dr.
Fairfield, CT 06430
800-232-2224

Regents/Prentice Hall
200 Old Tappan Road
Old Tappan, NY 07675
800-223-1360

Steck-Vaughn
3301 Steck Ave.
Austin, TX 78758
800-531-5015

Tom Snyder Productions
90 Sherman St.
Cambridge, MA 02140
800-342-0236

Video Language Products
P.O. Box 30675
Los Angeles, CA 90030
800-367-3806